nominated to the Board of Directors of R.B.K, S.B.I., I.D.B.I, and other financial institutions an bdanks;

(b) what is the ratio of their representation on these boards at present; and

(c) what is the criterion followed in nominating these representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Appointment of non-official directors on the boards of Reserve Bank of India, public sector tanks and financial institutions are made *in* accordance with the procedure and criteria prescribed in the relevant sta-tutes Government do nominate persons having special knowledge or experience in industry on the boards of banks ana financial institutions in accordance with the above stautory provisions.

Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance

2116. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA; Willi the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Consultative Committee, apart from the Parliair.sntarj' '"oramiuees, in respect of his Ministry where represenetatives of various trade and commerce are nominated;

(b) if so, what criterion is followed m selecting these representatives; and

(c) the number of meetings normally *held* by this Committee during a year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Monitming *Duty* the Exemption

2117. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIR-LA:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grant of duty exemp-tion by Government from time to time is not effectively monitored;

(b) whether Government and allied agencies have failed to curb such mal-practices; and

(c) if so, the steps Government now propose to take to check the implimenta-tion duty exemptions in the coimtry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY'): (a) The exemption from customs or excise duties are granted on merits of each case, taking into account all relevant considerations. The exemptions are granted in public interest by the Govemmenf.

(b) and (c) Does not arise tn view of (a) above.

Illicit Production of Mandras

2118. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIR-LA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether n is a fact that clandes tine production and illicit traffic in Mandrax has risen sizeably in the country du-fing the past few years;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the production and illicit traffic of Mandrax during the last three years, year-wise according to the estimation, if any made by Government:

(c) what is the exisitng law to check illicit production of Mandrax in the coimtry and what caliscs have been identified by Government for failure to check it; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The production and smuggling I of Mandrax is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether ip is j increasing in the country or otherwise. ■ However, available information about I the quantity of Mandrax seized during ' the alst three vears is as imder: